

Application No. 10/700,611
Amendment dated May 26, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 29, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-14, 16, and 23-28 stand rejected. Claims 15 and 17-22 were objected to for depending from rejected base claims, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner, Tara Mayo, for the telephone interview with Applicants' representative, David W. Dorton, on May 5, 2005. During the interview, claims 1, 23 and 24 were discussed and the Examiner conceded that she had not fully considered the claim language "substantially vertical direction," as discussed in a previous telephone interview on November 2, 2004, and set forth in Applicants' response filed December 2, 2004. Specifically, the language "substantially vertical direction" was defined in the Application at page 7, paragraph 30, to mean "motion in a vertical direction with no more than approximately 7% horizontal motion." The Examiner indicated that she would reconsider the remarks set forth in the December 2 response upon filing this request for reconsideration. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration at this time.

Each of independent claims 1, 23 and 24 recite the "substantially vertical direction" language that was discussed during the telephone interview. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 23 and 24 are in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth in the response filed December 2, 2004, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1, 23 and 24 be withdrawn.

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Claims 2-22 each depend from independent claim 1, and claims 25-28 each depend from independent claim 24. Accordingly, claims 2-22 and 25-28 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated above for claims 1 and 24.

Applicants further note that the final Office Action did not respond to Applicants' additional remarks with regard to the counterbalance mechanism recited in claims 10-12, 17, 23, 25 and 27; the spring wound mechanism recited in claim 9; the reciprocating assembly recited in claim 14; the crank member recited in claim 16; or superimposing a second vertically reciprocating motion on a first motion, as recited in claim 26.

Applicants assert that these features, or combinations of features, are not taught by the references of record. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of and/or objections to claims 2-22 and 25-28 be withdrawn.

Applicants are of the opinion that no additional fee is due as a result of this amendment. If any charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.

By: 
David W. Dorton, Reg. No. 51,625

2700 Carew Tower
441 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 241-2324 (voice)
(513) 241-6234 (facsimile)
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